

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claim [[1]] 43, wherein:  
the insufflation means are reusable; and  
the contamination prevention means are effective to prevent a contaminant from being carried by the insufflation medium to the insufflation means.
3. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claim [[1]] 43 or claim 2, wherein: <sup>2</sup>  
the insufflation means are reusable; and  
the contamination prevention means are effective to prevent a contaminant from being carried by the insufflation medium to the patient being examined.
4. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 43 or 2, wherein the <sup>2</sup>  
contamination prevention means comprise a non-return valve interposed between the insufflation means and the speculum.
5. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to any one of claims [[1]] 43 or 2 <sup>2</sup>  
wherein the contamination prevention means comprise a filter.
6. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to any one of claims [[1]] 43 or 2, <sup>2</sup>  
wherein the contamination prevention means comprise a precipitator.
7. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to any one of claims [[1]] 43 or 2 <sup>2</sup>  
wherein the contamination prevention means comprise a tortuous passageway.

8. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims ~~[[1]]~~ 43 or 2, wherein the contamination prevention means comprise a combination of two or more members selected from the group consisting of non-return valves, filters, precipitators and tortuous passageways.

9. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims ~~[[1 or]]~~ 2, wherein:  
the insufflation means comprise a resiliently compressible squeeze bulb; and  
the insufflation medium is air.

Alt 10. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 41, wherein the insufflation means are connected with the speculum and are disposable.

11. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 43, further comprising:  
coupling means for optically coupling ~~[[a]]~~ the reusable light source with the sigmoidoscope;

a disposable observation window at or adjacent to the observation end of the speculum,  
the observation window operative to guide light from the light source through the insertion end of the speculum; and

wherein the contamination prevention means further prevents contamination of the light source by the insufflation medium.

12. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 11 wherein the observation window is integral with the speculum.

13. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claims 11 or 12 wherein the observation window is selectively openable.

14. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claims 11 or 12, wherein the observation window is hingedly attached to the speculum.

15. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 41, 2, 10, 11 or 12, § wherein the insufflation means communicate with an interior region of the speculum via an inlet duct associated with the speculum.

16. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 41, 2, 10, 11 or 12, § wherein the insufflation means communicate with an interior region of the speculum via an inlet duct associated with an eyepiece.

17. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 16, wherein the eyepiece is disposable. §

18. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 43, 2, 10, 11 or 12, § wherein the contamination prevention means are disposable.

19. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 43, 2, 10, 11 or 12, § wherein the contamination prevention means are effectively integral with the speculum.

20. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 43, 2, 10, 11 or 12, § further comprising:

an inlet port for operatively connecting the insufflation means with the speculum and permitting internal pressurization of the speculum; and

the contamination prevention means adapted to prevent the insufflation medium from passing from an internal side to an external side of the inlet port while the insufflation medium is in use.

21. (currently amended) A sigmoidoscope according to claims [[1]] 41, 2, 10, 11, or 12, further comprising obturation means for facilitating insertion of the spectrum into the bowel cavity of the patent.

22. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 21, wherein the obturation means comprise:

an obturator having an elongated stem adapted to pass axially through the speculum; and  
a head adapted to protrude at least partially beyond the insertion end, the head connected to the elongated stem.

23. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 22, wherein the obturator may axially withdraw through the observation end of the sigmoidoscope.

24. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 23, wherein the observation window is adapted to be closed and sealed after the obturator is withdrawn.

25. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 21, wherein the obturation means comprise:

a hollow, generally tubular obturation sleeve slidably disposed in axial telescopic engagement with the speculum;

a plurality of resiliently deformable petal formations connected to the insertion end and selectively movable between a domed closed configuration a withdrawn open configuration.

26. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 25, wherein:

the obturator is external to the speculum; and

the petal formations are generally curved inwardly toward one another.

27. (previously presented) A sigmoidoscope according to claim 26 wherein the petal formations are resiliently biased inwardly toward the closed configuration and are displaced progressively outwardly toward the open configuration by manual sliding of the obturation sleeve away from the insertion end.

28. (currently amended) The disposable speculum of claim [[1]] 43, further comprising:  
a connection to the reusable insufflation means; and  
contamination prevention means for preventing contaminated insufflation medium from contacting the insufflation means.

29. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 28, wherein the contamination prevention means comprise a non-return valve.

30. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the contamination prevention means comprise a filter.

31. (previously presented) A speculum according to any one of claims 28 or 29, wherein the connection comprises an eyepiece.

32. (previously presented) A speculum according to any one of claims 28 or 29, wherein the insufflation means comprises an insufflation bulb.

33. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 28, further comprising coupling means for optically coupling a light source at an outer circumferential edge of the speculum.

34. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 33, further comprising:  
an observation means; and

a releasable coupling operably connecting the observation means to the light source adapted for releasable coupling to reusable observation means.

35. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 34, wherein the observation means comprise a light conducting system.

36. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 34, wherein the observation means comprise a light imaging system.

37. (previously presented) A speculum according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the observation means is connected to the speculum via an external connection head.

38. (previously presented) A speculum according to any one of claims 28, 29, 33, 34, 35 or 36, further comprising a hollow tubular body having good light transmission properties.

39. (previously presented) A speculum according to any one of claims 28, 29, 33, 34, 35 or 36, wherein the speculum is made of a plastic.

40. (currently amended) The disposable speculum of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 41, further comprising integral manually operable insufflation means adapted for disposal with the speculum to prevent cross contamination between patients due to contamination of the insufflation medium.

41. (New) A sigmoidoscope comprising:

a disposable speculum comprising:

an elongate substantially rigid tube having an observation end and an insertion end;

a side wall extending along the substantially rigid tube from the observation end to the insertion end and defining a lumen; wherein

the insertion end of the speculum is adapted for insertion into the rectum and sigmoid colon of a patient;

connection means adjacent the observation end of the speculum adapted to allow a reusable light source to be connected to the observation end and to project light through the speculum into the rectum and sigmoid colon of the patient; and

*Man* manually operable insufflation means adapted to insufflate the colon of the patient through the speculum with an insufflation medium susceptible to contamination from within the colon, the insufflation medium being conveyed directly from the insufflation means to the lumen by a gas conveying tube.

42. (New) A sigmoidoscope as claimed in claim 41, further comprising a gas-tight window disposed between the lumen of the speculum and the connection means for the light source.

43. (New) The sigmoidoscope of claim 41, further comprising a contamination prevention means <sup>window</sup>insulating the reusable light source from being exposed to any contaminated insufflation medium.

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